GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1971
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
PHONE TAPPING
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against illegal phone tapping of politicians and other individuals;

(b) if so, the total number of such complaints received by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against persons involved in such phone tapping and to stop such cases in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a)to(c) : Under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the rules made thereunder, the Union Home Secretary in the Government of India and the Secretary, in-charge of Home Department in the case of State Governments can allow interception of messages in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order and for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence. There is strict legal and administrative regime to ensure that this power is exercised only as per the said provision. A very few complaints received against illegal phone tapping were enquired into but no involvement of any Central agency was found.